

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 and 16 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent no. 6,063,677 ("Rodder") in view of US patent no. 5,937,300 ("Sekine").

Claims 13-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodder and Sekine, and further in view of US patent 6,054,355 ("Inumiya").

Claims 17-19 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodder, Sekine and Inumiya, and further in view of US patent 6,051,865 ("Gardner").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amendment and the following analysis, because this combination of references does not disclose or suggest every element of any pending claim.

Claim 1 recites that the inner surfaces of the silicide regions contact the alignment component and that the alignment component is removed. The cited combination of references fail to disclose or suggest all these limitations, as shown by the following analysis.

The rejection states that Rodder does not disclose that the inner surfaces of the silicide regions contact the alignment component. The rejection further states that Sekine teaches this missing element in Fig. 13b with an alignment component composed of items 805, 804, 810, and silicide regions 814. These elements of Sekine fail to meet the limitations of claim 1 and therefore fail to teach the invention of claim 1. The inner surfaces of the silicide regions 814 of Sekine contact only sidewalls 810, gate oxide film 804, and source/drain regions 811. None of these elements are removed, and therefore no

interpretation of Sekine can suggest that the inner surfaces of silicide regions 814 contact an alignment component that is removed.

Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1 and therefore include the same limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by Rodder and Sekine. Inumiya and Gardner were cited for other reasons, and fail to supply the missing elements from Rodder and Sekine.

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-19 are now in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. No fee is believed due with this response. If any associated financial transactions are incorrect, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOLOKOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

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John Travis

John Travis  
Reg. No. 43,203

12400 Wilshire Blvd  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026  
(512) 330-0844